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ABSTRACT

An investigation was conducted at Prince George's Community College to determine Fall 1980 course passing rates within college divisions and departments; passing rates and grade distributions in courses using different modes of instruction; within-term course withdrawal rates; term-to-term retention and attrition rates; students' reasons for college withdrawal; and the number of students diagnosed as needing developmental study. Data analyses revealed that: (1) the college-wide passing rate was 71%, representing a 1% drop from the passing rates of the previous three fall semesters; (2) health technology and physical education classes continued to have high passing rates, and science and math courses again had the lowest rates; (3) compared to Fall 1979, 13 departments had improved student success rates and 24 departments had lower success rates; (4) in most disciplines, introductory courses had lower passing rates; (5) eight-week courses and courses using audio-tutorial instruction had passing rates above the college average, while telecredit courses and courses using the Personalized System of Instruction had lower passing rates; (6) 14% of all course enrollees withdrew during Fall 1980; (7) the most frequently cited reasons for leaving the college were work conflict and academic difficulty; and (8) two-thirds of the Fall 1980 enrollees returned for Spring 1981. Fifteen data tables, in many cases revealing trends over several years, are appended. (Author/AYC)

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RETENTION AND ATTRITION IN FALL 1980: IMPLICATIONS FOR MARKETING. REPORT NO. 81-16.

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Report No. 81-16: Retention and Attrition in Fall 1980:
Implications for Marketing

Overview

Declining enrollments and rising costs have aroused national interest in college marketing, both recruitment and retention. Fewer high school graduates, accounting for half of the College's first-time students each fall, suggest an increasing need to retain students. But not at the expense of academic standards. Improving retention when entering students are less well prepared is the present challenge. How well is the College retaining its students currently? This report reviews course pass rates, within-term attrition, and term-to-term retention rates. Highlights of the findings:

(1) The College-wide success rate for Fall 1980 coursework was 71 percent. This was a one percent drop from the 72 percent rate of the previous three fall terms.

(2) Health Technology and Physical Education classes continued to have high pass rates. Science and Math courses and Instructional Development again had the lowest rates.

(3) Compared to a year ago, thirteen departments had improved student success rates. Twenty-four had lower success rates.

(4) In most disciplines, introductory courses had lower pass rates. While this was true in Chemistry, the Chemistry 101 pass rate was four percentage points higher than the previous fall.

(5) Eight-week courses, and those taught by the audio-tutorial method, had pass rates above the college average. Telecredit and courses taught by the Personalized System of Instruction had pass rates below the College average.

(6) Fourteen percent of all course enrollees withdrew during the semester. Most courses were dropped after the eighth week of class. Those withdrawing from the College gave work conflict and academic difficulty as the most frequent reasons.

(7) Two students out of every three enrolled in Fall 1980 returned for classes in Spring 1981. But only one out of every three Undeclared Majors returned. Students in career curriculums were more likely to return than those in transfer programs.

Course Pass Rates by Divisions and Departments

Each semester the Institutional Research Office reviews student success in coursework. An indicator developed for this analysis is the

success rate, defined as the number of successful course completions (grades A, B, C, D, P, TP, and audit) divided by initial enrollment. Failures and withdrawals are counted as "not a success."

The College-wide success rate for Fall 1980 was 71 percent. This was a one percent drop from the rate of the three previous fall terms. There has been a gradual decline from a high of 74 percent in Fall 1974. (See Table 1.)

Since 1975, division pass rates have been fairly stable. (See Table 2.) Among Technical and Career disciplines, Health Technology has had overall pass rates of 90 percent or above. Within Arts and Sciences, Physical Education has had the highest pass rates. Developmental Studies and Science and Mathematics have tended to have pass rates below the College average. Divisional pass rates in Fall 1980 were consistent with previous trends:

Division	Pass Rate
1. Health Technology	90%
2. P.E., Health, and Recreation	81%
3. Humanities	74%
4. Business Technology	73%
5. Scientific/Service Technology	73%
6. Social Sciences	72%
7. English	68%
8. Developmental Studies	64%
9. Science and Mathematics	61%

Pass rates were computed for each department. (See Table 3.) The following departments had course completion rates differing by ten percentage points from the College-wide rate:

High Pass Rates, Fall 1980

1. Correctional Services	95%
2. Nursing	94%
3. Security Management	88%
4. Allied Health	86%
5. Sophomore Literature	86%
6. P.E./Health/Recreation	81%
7. Physical Science	81%

Low Pass Rates, Fall 1980

1. Social Science	51%
2. Chemistry	53%
3. Developmental Math	57%
4. Mathematics	58%
5. Theater	60%
6. Geography	61%

Fall 1980 pass rates were compared with those of Fall 1979. Thirteen departments had improved course completion rates. Those with the most improvement were:

Department	Fall 79	Fall 80	%-Point Increase
Correctional Services	69%	95%	+26
Sophomore Literature	79%	86%	+ 7
Developmental English	65%	70%	+ 5

Twenty-four departments had success rates below those of a year ago. Departments with the greatest decline in pass rates were:

Department	Fall 79	Fall 80	%-Point Decrease
Social Science	68%	51%	-17
Theater	71%	60%	-11
Biology	72%	63%	- 9
Philosophy	75%	66%	- 9
Foreign Languages	81%	76%	- 5
Economics	75%	70%	- 5

Course Pass Rates in Introductory Courses

Introductory courses are important. They can be stepping-stones or obstacles to more advanced coursework. In most subjects, introductory classes have lower pass rates than advanced classes. This was true in Fall 1980. Twelve of the eighteen disciplines reviewed had beginning-course success rates below the rates for all other courses. (See Table 4.) In Physics 101 and Music 100, fewer than half of the original students had a successful experience. Chemistry 101 and Accounting 103 were also difficult beginning courses. To see how these rates had changed, Fall 1979 pass rates were reviewed. (See Table 5.) In eleven of the eighteen courses, Fall 1980 pass rates were lower than in the preceding fall. Two courses had the same percent passing. Five introductory courses, including Chemistry 101, had improved pass rates.

Course Pass Rates by Instructional Mode

How do students fare in non-traditional courses? Telecredit, audio-tutorial, and the personalized system of instruction were reviewed. In the six courses offered by telecredit, five were also available in other formats. (See Table 6.) In each case, telecredit sections had somewhat lower pass rates than the standard lecture format. Eight-week sections had the highest success rates. In two courses also available via the personalized system of instruction, the PSI sections had the lowest pass rates. But one-fourth of the PSI students received A's, suggesting that this was an effective medium for selected students. (See Table 7.) The audio-tutorial method used in Nursing had a high pass rate, 94 percent. Most students received a B or C grade, with five percent earning an A.

Within-Term Attrition

Course withdrawals were the outcome for 14 percent of the course registrations in Fall 1980. The total of 5,158 course withdrawals was virtually the same as last fall. (See Table 8.) Over two-thirds of the courses were dropped after the eighth week of class. Last fall, courses in Science and Mathematics had the highest withdrawal rates (see Table 9). Specific departments with high withdrawal rates in Fall 1980 included Chemistry (30 percent), Physics (26 percent), Mathematics (25 percent), Engineering (23 percent), Biology (19 percent), and Philosophy (19 percent). Other departments with withdrawal rates above fifteen percent included Career English, Political Science, Music, Career Planning, and English Composition. (See Table 10.)

Over a thousand students formally withdrew from the College during Fall 1980. The reasons given most often were work conflict and academic difficulty. (See Table 11.)

Term-to-Term Retention and Attrition

Two-thirds of the students enrolled in Fall 1980 returned for classes in Spring 1981. This was consistent with previous years. (See Table 12.) The retention rate varied by curriculum. We observed 78 percent of the career students returning, compared to 71 percent in transfer programs. *Of the students with no declared major, only 37 percent returned.* (See Table 13.) Otherwise, the percent returning ranged from a low of 17 percent in Industrial Arts Education to 100 percent in seven curricula. Retention rates for the various program areas were as follows:

Program Type	Fall-to-Spring Retention
Health Technology	87%
Marketing/Real Estate	85%
Business Management	83%
Public Services	82%
Computer Technology	81%
Education	72%
Engineering Technology	72%
General Studies	72%
Secretarial Science	72%
Accounting	71%
Arts and Sciences	71%
Business Administration	71%
Health Petitioners	60%

Discussion

Several retention/attrition indicators left an impression of relative stability. The number completing courses and the number continuing at the College were about the same as last year. But there are signs that faculty members need considerable support in promoting student success while maintaining academic standards. Over a third of the entering students completing

the CGP test battery need developmental coursework. (See Table 14.) This past year, sixty percent said they needed help with study skills. Forty-six percent expressed a need for help with reading speed and comprehension. (See Table 15.) Against the background of declining SAT scores, the evidence strongly indicates that entering students are less well prepared. How has the College responded?

The Developmental Studies division nearly doubled in size during the 1970's. Almost 1,800 students participated in developmental courses last fall, accounting for 8,000 credit hours. But enrollments were down an average of 8 percent in the last three years of developmental math, and down 3 percent in developmental English. What was happening to placement?

Individual academic departments have researched attrition in their introductory courses. Concerned faculty in Accounting, Chemistry, Career English, and Theater have consulted with the Research Office to search out ideas for improving student performance. Besides more success in a difficult subject such as Chemistry, there have been good student feelings about faculty who go out of their way to be supportive.

Subcommittees of the Marketing Task Force have explored retention strategies in depth. Their recommendations will be made in the near future.

These are signs of concern. Sustained commitment will be needed, however, to meet the challenges ahead, as change and uncertainty continue to be the signs of the times.

Craig Clagett
Research Analyst

3/23/81

Table 1

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Course Pass Rates and Course Attrition Rates,
Fall 1970-80

Fall	Initial Enrollment	Successful Completions	Pass Rate	Attrition Rate
1980	37,608	26,538	71%	29%
1979	37,284	26,757	72%	28%
1978	38,431	27,701	72%	28%
1977	39,995	28,715	72%	28%
1976	36,393	26,544	73%	27%
1975	35,127	25,580	73%	27%
1974	29,699	22,060	74%	26%
1973	29,523	21,583	73%	27%
1972	25,524	18,697	73%	27%
1971	23,659	16,912	71%	29%
1970	21,997	15,890	72%	28%

SOURCE: Office of Institutional Research, based on SDB 030.

1/12/81

Table 2

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Course Completion Rates, by Discipline, Fall 1975-79

	Fall 1975	Fall 1976	Fall 1977	Fall 1978	Fall 1979
TECHNICAL AND CAREER	74%	75%	73%	74%	74%
Health Technology	92%	91%	92%	91%	90%
Nursing	94%	94%	94%	94%	93%
Allied Health	87%	87%	89%	88%	87%
Scientific/Service Technology	75%	75%	74%	75%	74%
Public Services	81%	85%	82%	81%	78%
Data Processing	72%	70%	70%	74%	73%
Engineering Technology	72%	71%	70%	68%	70%
Business Technology	69%	71%	69%	71%	72%
Business Studies	71%	72%	70%	72%	73%
Secretarial Science	61%	63%	60%	60%	63%
ARTS AND SCIENCES	72%	70%	71%	71%	71%
Physical Education	81%	81%	80%	80%	83%
Humanities	79%	78%	76%	75%	76%
Foreign Languages	80%	80%	80%	80%	81%
Art	78%	79%	79%	79%	79%
Speech and Drama	79%	79%	76%	74%	75%
Philosophy	77%	76%	76%	72%	75%
Music	76%	77%	72%	72%	70%
Social Sciences	72%	71%	73%	74%	75%
Psychology	76%	66%	73%	77%	77%
History	74%	73%	76%	76%	77%
Economics	73%	73%	75%	70%	75%
Sociology/Anthropology	74%	76%	77%	77%	74%
Political Science/Geog.	60%	67%	65%	70%	65%
English	70%	69%	68%	68%	68%
Sophomore Literature	81%	80%	79%	79%	79%
Career English	67%	74%	70%	70%	68%
Composition	69%	66%	66%	66%	66%

Course Completion Rates, by Discipline, Fall 1975-79 (Continued)

	Fall 1975	Fall 1976	Fall 1977	Fall 1978	Fall 1979
Science and Mathematics	69%	71%	67%	67%	64%
Physical Science	81%	79%	72%	78%	81%
Biology	76%	72%	73%	70%	72%
Engineering	47%	67%	62%	62%	70%
Mathematics	66%	71%	65%	66%	62%
Physics	72%	76%	72%	66%	59%
Chemistry	50%	58%	53%	53%	49%
Developmental Studies	70%	66%	68%	66%	63%
Developmental Reading	68%	65%	73%	73%	66%
Developmental Composition	70%	69%	71%	65%	65%
Developmental Math	71%	65%	64%	64%	59%
COLLEGE-WIDE	73%	73%	72%	72%	72%

SOURCE: Office of Institutional Research. The completion rate equals the number of completions (grades A, B, C, D, TP, P, and Audit) divided by initial enrollment.

4/11/80

Table 3

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Course Pass Rates by Departments, Fall 1980

Divisions and Departments	Initial Enrollment	Successful Completions	Completion Rate
TECHNICAL AND CAREER	11,033	8,185	74%
Health Technology	881	789	90%
Medical Laboratory	*37*	*35*	*95*
Nursing	*396*	*371*	*94*
Respiratory Therapy	*81*	*76*	*94*
Medical Records Tech.	*36*	*33*	*92*
Radiologic Technology	*52*	*47*	*90*
Health	*69*	*59*	*86*
Dental Assisting	*52*	*43*	*83*
Early Childhood Education	*113*	*92*	*81*
Nuclear Medicine	*45*	*33*	*73*
Business Technology	6,796	4,950	73%
Business Studies	*5,888*	*4,364*	*74*
Secretarial	*908*	*586*	*65*
Scientific/Service Technology	3,356	2,446	73%
Fire Science	*12*	*12*	*100*
Correctional Services	*41*	*39*	*95*
Security Management	*52*	*46*	*88*
Law Enforcement	*592*	*462*	*78*
Computer Technology	*1,945*	*1,393*	*72*
Engineering Technology	*714*	*494*	*69*
ARTS AND SCIENCES	26,575	18,353	69%
P.E., Health, & Recreation	2,287	1,855	31%
Health Education	*339*	*279*	*82*
Recreation	*160*	*131*	*82*
Physical Education	*1,788*	*1,445*	*81*
Humanities	4,458	3,313	74%
English as a Foreign Language	*380*	*298*	*78*
Speech	*1,705*	*1,305*	*77*
Art	*943*	*730*	*77*
French/German/Spanish	*419*	*313*	*75*
Music	*448*	*302*	*67*
Philosophy	*425*	*282*	*66*
Theater	*138*	*83*	*60*

Course Pass Rates by Departments, Fall 1980 (continued)

Divisions and Departments	Initial Enrollment	Successful Completions	Completion Rate
Social Sciences	6,333	4,556	72%
Anthropology	*65*	*50*	*77*
Psychology	*1,949*	*1,438*	*74*
History	*1,443*	*1,066*	*74*
Sociology	*746*	*548*	*73*
Economics	*1,307*	*921*	*70*
Political Science	*689*	*458*	*66*
Geography	*69*	*42*	*61*
Social Science	*65*	*33*	*51*
English	4,453	3,017	68%
Sophomore Literature	*463*	*397*	*86*
Composition	*3,015*	*1,985*	*66*
Career English	*975*	*635*	*65*
Developmental Studies	2,701	1,736	64%
Developmental English	*733*	*511*	*70*
Education/Career Planning	*214*	*149*	*70*
Developmental Reading	*638*	*440*	*69*
Developmental Math	*1,116*	*636*	*57*
Science and Mathematics	6,343	3,876	61%
Physical Science	*666*	*539*	*81*
Engineering	*147*	*97*	*66*
Biology	*1,152*	*724*	*63*
Physics	*301*	*190*	*63*
Mathematics	*3,417*	*1,976*	*58*
Chemistry	*660*	*350*	*53*
COLLEGE-WIDE	37,608	26,538	71%

SOURCE: Institutional Research, based on Systems and Programming report SDB 030.

1/8/81

Table 4

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Completion Rates for Selected On-campus Introductory Courses,
Fall 1980

Introductory Course	Initial Enrollment	Successful Completions	Pass Rate	Combined Pass Rate for All Other Courses in this Discipline
Physics 101	66	29	44%	69%
Music 100	73	34	47%	71%
Chemistry 101	281	141	50%	55%
Accounting 103	1,014	541	53%	72%
Career English 131	502	298	59%	71%
Engineering Technology 151	195	115	59%	73%
Political Science 101	472	295	63%	75%
English Composition 101	1,764	1,136	64%	68%
Biology 101	415	276	67%	61%
Engineering 101	73	49	67%	65%
Sociology 101	489	338	69%	82%
Philosophy 101	322	221	69%	59%
Law Enforcement 151	151	105	70%	81%
Data Processing 150	735	531	72%	71%
Speech 101	867	667	77%	76%
Nursing 151	61	47	77%	97%
Business 101	1,135	881	78%	79%
Psychology 101	664	519	78%	72%
TOTAL	9,279	6,223	67%	74%

SOURCE: Office of Institutional Research, based on SDB 030.
1/26/81

Table 5

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Comparison of Pass Rates in Introductory Courses
for Selected Disciplines, Fall 1979 and Fall 1980

Introductory Course	Fall 1979	Fall 1980	Change
Physics 101	53%	44%	-9
Engineering 101	76%	67%	-9
Nursing 151	85%	77%	-8
Music 100	54%	47%	-7
Philosophy 101	76%	69%	-7
Political Science 101	68%	63%	-5
Biology 101	72%	67%	-5
Engineering Technology 151	63%	59%	-4
Sociology 101	72%	69%	-3
Law Enforcement 151	73%	70%	-3
Data Processing 150	74%	72%	-2
Accounting 103	53%	53%	0
English Composition 101	64%	64%	0
Career English 131	58%	59%	+1
Business 101	77%	78%	+1
Speech 101	75%	77%	+2
Psychology 101	76%	78%	+2
Chemistry 101	46%	50%	+4

SOURCE: Office of Institutional Research, based on SDB 030.

1/23/80

Table 6

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Course Completion Rates, Telecredit Compared with Other Modes of Instruction, Fall 1980

Course and Mode	Initial Enrollment	Completions	Completion Rate
English 101			
Eight-week	44	32	73%
Standard lecture	2,062	1,334	65
Telecredit	19	12	63
History 141			
Eight-week	23	21	91%
Standard lecture	392	316	81
Telecredit	31	20	65
Personalized system	33	21	64
Political Science 101			
Standard lecture	482	315	65%
Telecredit	45	25	56
Psychology 101			
Eight-week	20	17	85%
Standard lecture	827	657	79
Telecredit	35	25	71
Personalized system	398	223	56
Psychology 203			
Standard lecture	83	68	82%
Telecredit	29	22	76
Social Science 198			
Telecredit	15	9	60%
TOTAL TELECREDIT	174	113	65%

SOURCE: Office of Institutional Research, based on SDB 030.

1/9/81

Table 7

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Final Grade Distribution, Personalized System of Instruction and Audio-Tutorial Method, Fall 1980

	A	B	C	D	Toward Passing, Incomplete	Failed	Withdrew	Pass or Audit	Total
COLLEGE-WIDE (ALL MODES)	21%	22%	17%	6%	1%	14%	15%	4%	100%
Personalized System of Instruction	26%	15%	4%	1%	12%	17%	26%	0%	100%
Audio-Tutorial Method	5%	41%	37%	10%	1%	1%	5%	0%	100%
Personalized System of Instruction									
General Psychology	94	63	16	2	51	67	105	0	398
U.S. History	19	2	0	0	1	6	5	0	33
Total PSI	113	65	16	2	52	73	110	0	431
Audio-Tutorial Method									
Nursing I	2	16	19	10	0	2	12	0	61
Nursing II	3	29	14	2	0	1	0	0	49
Nursing III	1	30	15	2	0	1	1	0	50
Nursing IV	4	26	28	7	2	0	0	0	67
Nursing V	4	15	28	7	0	0	2	0	56
Total ATM	14	116	104	28	2	4	15	0	283

SOURCE: Office of Institutional Research, based on Systems and Programming report SDB 030.

1/21/81

Table 8

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WITHIN-TERM ATTRITION

Total Course Withdrawals, Fall 1972-80

Fall	Initial Third Week Enrollment	Withdrawals				Final Enrollment	
		By 8th Week		Total			
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent of Initial
1980	37,005	1,505	4%	5,158	14%	31,847	86%
1979	36,962	569	3%	5,145	14%	31,817	86%
1978	38,096	1,539	4%	5,108	13%	32,988	87%
1977	38,908	3,509	9%	4,736	12%	34,172	88%
1976	35,673	928	3%	4,182	12%	31,491	88%
1975	34,390	367	1%	3,193	9%	31,197	91%
1974	29,699	1,300	4%	2,330	8%	27,369	92%
1973	28,943	500	2%	4,305	15%	24,638	85%
1972	25,026	661	3%	4,128	16%	20,898	84%

SOURCE: Office of Institutional Research, based on INR 031.

Table 9

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WITHIN-TERM ATTRITION

Course Withdrawals by Divisions and Departments, Fall 1979

	Third Week Enrollment	Final Enrollment	Number of Withdrawals	Attrition Rate
TECHNICAL AND CAREER EDUCATION	11,103	9,737	1,366	12%
Business Technology	6,864	5,973	891	13%
Secretarial Science	887	743	144	16%
Business Studies	5,977	5,230	747	12%
Scientific/Service Technology	3,286	2,858	428	13%
Engineering Technology	635	538	97	15%
Data Processing	1,936	1,656	280	14%
Public Services	715	664	51	7%
Health Technology	953	906	47	5%
Allied Health	528	499	29	5%
Nursing	425	407	18	4%
ARTS AND SCIENCES	25,859	22,080	3,779	15%
Science and Mathematics	6,187	4,898	1,289	21%
Physics	235	162	73	31%
Chemistry	637	450	187	29%
Engineering	128	100	28	22%
Mathematics	3,488	2,722	766	22%
Biology	1,115	948	167	15%
Physical Science	584	516	68	12%
English	4,244	3,555	689	16%
Career English	941	778	163	17%
Composition	2,931	2,460	471	16%
Literature	372	317	55	15%
Social Sciences	6,143	5,376	767	12%
Political Science/Geog.	704	587	117	17%
Economics	1,289	1,110	179	14%
Sociology/Anthropology	1,093	957	136	12%
Psychology	1,660	1,478	182	11%
History	1,397	1,244	153	11%

Course Withdrawals by Divisions and Departments, Fall 1979 (Continued)

	Third Week Enrollment	Final Enrollment	Number of Withdrawals	Attrition Rate
Humanities	4,180	3,684	496	12%
Music	523	420	103	20%
Speech/Drama	1,774	1,565	209	12%
Philosophy	371	328	43	12%
Art	950	858	92	10%
Foreign Languages	562	513	49	9%
Developmental Studies	2,811	2,497	314	11%
Career/Life Planning	138	112	26	19%
Developmental Reading	705	620	85	12%
Developmental English	752	669	83	11%
Developmental Math	1,216	1,096	120	10%
P.E., Recreation, & Health	2,294	2,070	224	10%
TOTAL	36,962	31,817	5,145	14%

SOURCE: Office of Institutional Research, based on INR 031.

Table 10

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WITHIN-TERM ATTRITION

Course Withdrawals by Divisions and Departments, Fall 1980

	Third Week Enrollment	Final Enrollment	Number of Withdrawals	Attrition Rate
TECHNICAL AND CAREER EDUCATION	10,853	9,544	1,309	12%
Business Technology	6,653	5,815	838	13%
Secretarial Science	888	755	133	15%
Business Studies	5,765	5,060	705	12%
Scientific/Service Technology	3,321	2,898	423	13%
Data Processing	1,923	1,640	283	15%
Engineering Technology	710	615	95	13%
Criminal Justice	688	643	45	7%
Health Technology	879	831	48	5%
Allied Health	483	453	30	6%
Nursing	396	378	18	5%
ARTS AND SCIENCES	26,152	22,303	3,849	15%
Science and Mathematics	6,317	4,849	1,468	23%
Chemistry	648	452	196	30%
Physics	297	221	76	26%
Mathematics	3,425	2,561	864	25%
Engineering	146	112	34	23%
Biology	1,133	915	218	19%
Physical Science	668	588	80	12%
English	4,375	3,698	677	15%
Career English	952	790	162	17%
Composition	2,996	2,511	485	16%
Literature	427	397	30	7%
Social Sciences	6,204	5,461	743	12%
Political Science/Geog.	741	618	123	17%
Economics	1,289	1,113	176	14%
Psychology	1,895	1,690	205	11%
Sociology/Anthropology	870	778	92	11%
History	1,409	1,262	147	10%

Course Withdrawals by Divisions and Departments, Fall 1980 (Continued)

	Third Week Enrollment	Final Enrollment	Number of Withdrawals	Attrition Rate
Humanities	4,385	3,897	488	11%
Philosophy	424	345	79	19%
Music	432	365	67	16%
Speech/Drama	1,822	1,638	184	10%
Art	929	839	90	10%
Foreign Languages	778	710	68	9%
Developmental Studies	2,647	2,384	263	10%
Career/Life Planning	219	184	35	16%
Developmental English	726	650	76	10%
Developmental Reading	633	569	64	10%
Developmental Math	1,069	981	88	8%
P.E., Recreation, & Health	2,224	2,014	210	9%
COLLEGE TOTAL	37,005	31,847	5,158	14%

SOURCE: Office of Institutional Research, based on INR 030.

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Table 11

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reasons for Withdrawal Given by Students to Counselors,
Fall 1976-80

	Fall 1976	Fall 1977	Fall 1978	Fall 1979	Fall 1980
Work conflict	256	303	327	282	279
Academic difficulty	56	79	76	193	216
Ill health	123	156	136	170	157
Moving from area	51	54	48	50	53
Financial difficulties	49	43	33	45	25
Personal	143	150	161	n.a.	n.a.
Other priorities	244	277	165	284	301
TOTAL	922	1,062	946	1,024	1,031

SOURCE: Withdrawal Survey, Human Development Center. Table reflects only those students who completed exit interviews with counselors. A new withdrawal form was introduced in Fall 1979 which did not include the response "Personal."

3/11/81

Table 12

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates, Fall 1971-Spring 1981

Academic Year	Fall Semester Headcount	Returned Following Spring Semester	Percent Continuing
1980-81	13,747	9,226	67%
1979-80	13,477	9,080	67%
1978-79	13,828	9,030	65%
1977-78	13,754	8,975	65%
1976-77	11,915	7,789	65%
1975-76	11,430	7,688	67%
1974-75	9,725	6,638	68%
1973-74	9,258	6,235	67%
1972-73	7,888	5,207	66%
1971-72	7,180	4,687	65%

SOURCE: Office of Institutional Research, based on third week STU 276.

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Table 13

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Estimated Fall 1980 Students Continuing in Spring 1981,
by Curriculum

Curriculum	Enrolled Fall 1980	Estimated Continuing Spring 1981	Estimated Percent Continuing
CAREER CURRICULA	5,416	4,206	78%
Health Technology	545	474	87%
Dental Assistant	*24*	*24*	*100*
Medical Records Technician	*22*	*22*	*100*
Respiratory Therapy	*50*	*47*	*94*
Medical Lab Technician	*34*	*31*	*91*
Nursing	*252*	*224*	*89*
X-ray Technician	*40*	*35*	*88*
Nuclear Medicine Technician	*26*	*21*	*81*
Child Care Assistant	*88*	*66*	*75*
Day Care Certificate	*9*	*4*	*44*
Science/Service Technology	2,298	1,822	79%
Public Services Technology	413	339	82%
Correctional Services	*41*	*41*	*100*
Security Management	*14*	*14*	*100*
Law Enforcement	*342*	*278*	*81*
Security Management Cert.	*7*	*3*	*43*
Fire Science	*9*	*3*	*33*
Computer Technology	1,366	1,108	81%
Computer Management	*127*	*115*	*91*
Business Computer Programming	*498*	*435*	*87*
Computer Science	*413*	*340*	*82*
Computer Operator Certificate	*119*	*84*	*71*
Computer Programming Certificate	*209*	*134*	*64*
Engineering Technology	519	375	72%
Industrial Engineering Technology	*15*	*15*	*100*
Residential Construction Cert.	*1*	*1*	*100*
Mechanical Engineering Technology	*62*	*47*	*76*
Drafting Technology	*70*	*52*	*74*
Electronics Engineering Technology	*330*	*235*	*71*
Civil Engineering Technology	*40*	*25*	*63*

Estimated Fall 1980 Students Continuing in Spring 1981, by Curriculum (Cont.)

	Enrolled Fall 1980	Estimated Continuing Spring 1981	Estimated Percent Continuing
Business Technology	2,088	1,618	77%
Marketing Management/Real Estate	177	150	85%
Marketing Management	*105*	*99*	*94*
Real Estate	*37*	*33*	*89*
Real Estate Certificate	*35*	*18*	*51*
Business Management	933	771	83%
Secretarial Science	266	191	72%
Medical Secretarial	*48*	*39*	*81*
Clerk-Typist Certificate	*15*	*12*	*80*
Legal Secretarial	*60*	*46*	*77*
General Secretarial	*73*	*52*	*71*
Executive Secretarial	*37*	*25*	*68*
Secretarial Certificate	*33*	*17*	*52*
Accounting	712	506	71%
Accounting	*638*	*466*	*73*
Accounting Certificate	*74*	*40*	*54*
Health Petitioners	485	292	60%
TRANSFER CURRICULA	5,600	4,001	71%
General Studies	2,778	1,995	72%
Education	371	266	72%
Elementary Education	*137*	*112*	*82*
Secondary Education	*50*	*39*	*78*
Health Education	*48*	*34*	*71*
General Business Education	*57*	*38*	*67*
Physical Education	*44*	*29*	*66*
Secretarial Education	*23*	*13*	*45*
Industrial Arts Education	*6*	*1*	*17*
Business Administration	1,331	943	71%

Estimated Fall 1980 Students Continuing in Spring 1981, by Curriculum (Cont.)

	Enrolled Fall 1980	Estimated Continuing Spring 1981	Estimated Percent Continuing
TRANSFER CURRICULA (Continued)			
Arts and Sciences	1,120	797	71%
American Studies	*6*	*6*	*100*
Urban/Environmental Studies	*25*	*19*	*76*
Recreation	*77*	*58*	*75*
Engineering	*385*	*273*	*71*
Liberal Arts	*294*	*208*	*71*
Art	*251*	*178*	*71*
Music	*82*	*55*	*67*
UNDECLARED MAJOR	2,731	1,019	37%
COLLEGE TOTAL	13,747	9,226	67%

SOURCE: Systems and Programming report STU 276. Continuing spring figures reflect students identified in each curriculum as of 2/7/81 who attended PGCC in Fall 1980. Since some students may have changed curriculums after the third week of the fall semester, the numbers continuing in each curriculum are estimates only.

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Table 14

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Percent of Students Taking CGP Tests Needing
Developmental Study, 1976-80

CGP Program Year	Total Tested at PGCC	Total Scoring Below 46					
		Reading		Sentences		Mathematics	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1979-80	5,256	2,039	39%	1,827	35%	1,777	34%
1978-79	5,679	2,455	43%	2,305	41%	2,292	40%
1977-78	4,836	2,018	42%	1,787	37%	1,859	38%
1976-77	4,708	1,700	36%	1,536	33%	1,636	35%

SOURCE: Institutional Research, based on data from Admissions and Testing. A CGP Program Year begins in October and runs through September of the following year.

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Table 15

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Selected Responses of Students Taking CGP Tests, 1973-1980

	1973		1980	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Entry status:				
Direct from high school	1,507	64%	1,908	36%
Worked for 3 or more years between high school and PGCC	296	13%	1,083	21%
Worked 1 to 2 years	211	9%	590	11%
Transferred from another school	26	1%	310	6%
Place of residence:				
At home with parents	1,642	70%	2,859	54%
Own home or apartment	554	24%	1,630	31%
With friends	88	4%	305	6%
Weekly work hours:				
Over 30 hours	460	20%	1,570	30%
None	329	14%	497	9%
Expressed need for help with:				
Study techniques	1,206	52%	3,154	60%
Career and educational counseling	1,329	57%	2,981	57%
Reading speed and comprehension	930	40%	2,423	46%
Financial aid	592	25%	2,355	45%
Finding employment	740	32%	1,754	33%
How definite about curriculum choice?				
Definite	972	42%	2,384	48%
Fairly definite, subject to change	1,026	44%	2,001	40%
Indefinite	330	14%	566	11%
Main reason attending PGCC:				
Close to home	727	31%	1,717	33%
Strength in intended major	302	13%	682	13%
Inexpensive	376	16%	620	12%
Immediate plans when leave PGCC:				
Transfer to 4-year school	1,185	51%	2,368	45%
Full-time work	617	26%	1,396	27%
Undecided	446	19%	932	18%

SOURCE: *Comparative Guidance and Placement Program End-of-Year Summary Reports.* Above information reflects selected responses; for complete set see source document. A total of 2,341 were tested in 1973, and 5,260 in 1980 program year.

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1/28/81

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